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Ebing approves Leuret's method of conquering insane conceptions by intimidation if arguments fail, and supplementing this system by school-training to change the current of thought and introduce new healthy ideas. A case is cited where a patient was cured of a tendency to repeat words and phrases by memorizing verses. The basis of this treatment is related to the principle that a shock to one's prejudice leaves the mind open to the influence of new ideas. The article closes with three interesting cases.

Muskelthätigkeit als Mass psychischer Thätigkeit. Forlaufige Mittheilung. Von DR. J. LAUB. Pflüger's Archiv. 1886 [Dec].

The writer attempted to determine, by experiment, how much a given muscular action was reduced when a given psychic activity occurred at the same time. A maximal muscular clench was recorded on a dynamometer. Then after a rest the dynamometer was again taken in the hand, and some mental activity was begun, in the midst of which a maximal pressure on the dynamometer was again attempted, and found to be much less than before. The mental work done was mainly reading (so as to reproduce in substance), and mental multiplication of numbers of two figures each. The more intense the physic action the slighter is the contractive energy required to cause tremor. The relative effects of thought on the available power of the right or left hand respectively was also taken into account, and the whole study is subsumed under the principle of the constancy and equivalence of force. It has long been a desideratum in work of this kind to have a dynamometer invented which can register fine differences of pressure when the absolute pressure is great, and, as Dr. Laub states he was engaged for a year on the problem of dynamometry, we may hope that when the full account of his work appears he will be found to have solved this problem, as well as to have overcome the manifold sources of error which will occur to physiologists who read his preliminary statement.

Du Diagnostic Medico-Legal de la Pyromanie par l'examen indirect.
E. M. DEMONTYEL. Archives de Neurologie. January, 1887.

In this long and valuable article, pyromania is limited to acts caused by irresistible impulse without sensory delusions or deliriums. Tenacity in denial, so different from the often prompt self-accusation of the impulsive homicide, who often feels the impulse and wishes to be restrained from its power, which the pyromaniac never does, may be due to the fact that pyromania chiefly occurs among the lower and feebler classes, whose favorite weapon is deceit. Thus direct examination of pyromaniacs is little to be relied on. Again, the presence of any motive is held to vitiate the claim of alienation as an excuse for such an act, though its absence does not establish it. The pyromaniac is rarely detected before having caused several conflagrations. Pyromaniacs are comparatively unknown in the city. Their acts are commonly done on sundays or holidays, or at the close of business hours. Very inflammable material which strongly suggests the approach of a match, especially tempts them. Thus occasion and probable security are dangerous. He does not fly, but is often the first to give alarm, and work devotedly to extinguish the flames. The disorder tends to appear at puberty and again in the climacteric. It is almost always attended by mental weakness. As pyromaniacs rarely incriminate themselves, it becomes the more important to study the many indications by which the diagnosis can be made, by indirect examinations. Six interesting new cases are described.